

A. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A computer-based, interactive method for facilitating the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of a patient suspected of having a medical disorder, comprising:

conducting a preliminary physical examination of the patient ~~determining attributes of the patient~~ and making a preliminary diagnosis based on the preliminary physical examination that the attributes that a patient has a particular medical disorder;

entering into the computer system information identifying the particular medical disorder;

outputting from the computer system ~~providing a template including~~ information about the particular medical disorder and information identifying other medical disorders that might be confused with the medical disorder ~~at least one field for recording data corresponding to the attributes of the patient;~~

prompting the user to further examine said patient for one or more predefined signs or symptoms that might be exhibited by one afflicted with the particular medical disorder;

entering into the computer system information identifying those of the one or more predefined signs or symptoms exhibited by the patient;

prompting the user to conduct a differential diagnosis of the patient based on the information identifying other medical disorders that might be confused with the particular medical disorder;

prompting the user to conduct a work up of said patient, the work up comprising one or more predefined elements based on the information identifying the particular medical disorder;

entering into the computer system information identifying those of the one or more predefined work up elements conducted on the patient;

prompting the user to recommend a treatment plan for the patient, the treatment plan comprising one or more predefined elements based on the information identifying the particular medical disorder;

entering into the computer system information identifying those of the one or more predefined treatment plan elements recommended for the patient;

~~comparing the attributes of the patient to the information about the particular medical disorder on the template;~~

~~marking the template to indicate information about the particular medical disorder that matches an attribute of the patient;~~

entering into the computer system recording data identifying the patient; and
simultaneously displaying on a display of the computer system the template the
information about the particular medical disorder, the signs or symptoms exhibited by the patient
matching indicia, and the patient data;

~~wherein the step of determining is performed before the steps of providing, comparing, marking, and displaying~~

wherein the steps of conducting a preliminary physical examination, making a preliminary diagnosis, and entering information identifying the particular medical disorder are performed before the step of outputting.

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the ~~selected information, matching indicia and patient data from a health care practitioner making the selection, indication or recordation~~ information about the particular medical disorder, the predefined signs or symptoms exhibited by the patient and the patient data to another ~~user health care practitioner~~ or to the patient's medical record.

8-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus A-system~~ for use in connection with providing health care to a patient suspected of having a medical disorder, comprising:

a ~~plurality of printed~~ set of pre-printed templates, each of the templates directed to a respective medical disorder, each of the templates provided with:

information prompting the user to examine the patient for one or more predefined ~~[[on]]~~ signs and/or symptoms associated with ~~[[a]]~~ the respective ~~corresponding~~ medical disorder;

information prompting the user to conduct one or more predefined ~~[[on]]~~ tests that could be used to determine the presence or severity of the respective medical disorder;

information prompting the user to recommend one or more predefined ~~[[on]]~~ treatments that could be administered to treat the respective medical disorder;

at least one field for entry of patient data;

wherein each of said templates is adapted for annotation by a user to indicate:

the user's observation that the patient exhibits one or more of the predefined signs and/or symptoms associated with the respective ~~corresponding~~ medical disorder;

the user's opinion that one or more of the predefined tests should be conducted to confirm that the patient is afflicted by the respective ~~corresponding~~ medical disorder; and

the user's opinion that one or more of the predefined treatments should be administered to treat the patient; ~~and~~

wherein at least one of the templates is directed to a medical disorder other than the medical disorder the patient is suspected of having; and

wherein each of said templates is printed on paper encased within transparent plastic.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 22, wherein one of the templates can be removed from the set of templates without damaging the remaining templates.

25. (Currently amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 22, wherein each of the templates is ~~adapted to be marked by a user such that the marks can be later removed and the template returned to its original condition and marked again~~ printed on paper encased in transparent plastic.

26-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said steps of prompting are performed by said computer system.
29. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the set of templates is bound into a handbook.
30. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the apparatus further comprises one or more templates including reference data comprising normal values or value ranges for the one or more tests.
31. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the apparatus further comprises a vision chart.